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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/668,973
Applicants: Takashi YANO, et al.
RCE Filed: August 24, 2005
For: DOCUMENT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM
Group Art Unit: 2166
Examiner: ALI, M.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Appeal Brief w/Appendices

Our credit card payment form in the amount of **\$500.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Kurt M. Berger
James J. Kulbaski

Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JAMES J. KULBASKI
(703) 413-3000
JKULBASKI@OBLON.COM

KURT M. BERGER, PH.D.
(703) 413-3000
KBERGER@OBLON.COM

DOCKET NO: 240117US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKASHI YANO ET AL. : EXAMINER: ALI, M.
SERIAL NO: 10/668,973 :
RCE FILED: AUGUST 24, 2005 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2166
FOR: DOCUMENT INFORMATION :
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM :

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants appeal the outstanding Final Rejection of February 13, 2006, finally rejecting each of pending Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The above-noted application is assigned to Ricoh Company, Ltd., which is the real party in interest, having a place of business at Tokyo, Japan.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant and Applicant's representative are not aware of any related appeals or interferences that will directly effect or be directly affected by or having a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

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III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34 are pending in this application and the rejection of each of Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34 is being appealed.

Claims 2-34 were added; and Claims 1, 20, and 23 were cancelled during prosecution of this application.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Notice of Appeal was filed subsequent to the Final Rejection dated February 13, 2006. Accordingly, all previously filed Amendments have been considered by the Examiner and are reflected in the attached claims.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The applicants of the present invention recognized that a problem exists in the current art in that until the present invention there was not a document information management system and method enabling a search of documents by only specifying an arbitrary word in a displayed document as a keyword for the search.

Accordingly, Claim 2 sets forth a method of managing information. The method recited in Claim 2 is generally supported by the flowcharts shown in Figures 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, and 13 and the description related thereto in the specification.

In particular, Claim 2 recites the step of identifying a word of an image as a keyword, which finds supports, e.g., in Figure 3, step S302 and mouse operation 104; and page 10, lines 14-17 and 19-23 of the specification.

Further, Claim 2 recites the step of determining a search result corresponding to the keyword, which finds supports, e.g., in Figure 3, step S352; and page 11, lines 9-18 of the specification.

In addition, Claim 2 recites the step of displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result, which finds supports, e.g., in Figure 3, steps S353 and S306; Figure 4 (pop-up menu 402); and page 11, line 22 to page 12, line 8 of the specification.

Further, Claim 2 recites the step of displaying information corresponding to the search result, which finds supports, e.g., in Figure 3, step S306; and page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 6 of the specification.

Finally, Claim 2 recites the step of displaying additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information, which finds supports, e.g., in Figure 3, steps S307-S309; and page 12, lines 9-24 of the specification.

Independent Claims 17, 30, and 31 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 2 and are supported by the originally filed specification and drawings in a manner analogous to the support for Claim 2 described above.

In particular, Claim 17 is directed to information management device, comprising: (1) a display unit configured to display an image; (2) an identification unit configured to identify a word displayed in the image to be a keyword; and (3) a search unit configured to input the keyword and to output a search result corresponding to the keyword, wherein the display unit is configured to obtain the search result corresponding to the keyword from the search unit, to display a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result, to display information corresponding to the search result, and to display additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information. See Figure 2 and page 9, lines 5-8 for a discussion of the display unit. See also Figure 1, which shows a browser 102 and the search engine 102, which provides support for the identification unit and the search unit, respectively. Also, Claim 17 is supported by Figures 3 and 4, as discussed above with respect to Claim 2.

Claim 30 is directed to a means-plus-function version of Claim 17, while Claim 31 is directed to a computer program product and recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 2. See Figure 1 and pages 8-10 for a description of the computer hardware and software used to implement the invention recited in the present claims.

Dependent Claims 3-9, 11-16, 18-22, 24-29, and 32-34 are generally supported by Figures 3 and 4 and the discussion related thereto in the specification. For example, Claim 3 is supported by Figure 3, step S301; Claims 4 and 6 are supported by Figure 4 (search result and pop-up menu displayed); Claim 7 is supported by Figure 3, step S352; Claim 8 is supported by Figure 3, mouse operation 104; and Claim 9 is supported by Figures 8, 11A, and 11B.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection being appealed are whether the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,982,370 to Kamper (hereinafter "the '370 patent") in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,808 to Evans et al. (hereinafter "the '808 patent") render obvious the subject matter of each of Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34 under U.S.C. § 103(a).

VII. ARGUMENT

Claims 2-9, 10-22, and 24-34

As discussed above, Claim 2 is directed to a method of managing information, comprising: (1) identifying a word of an image as a keyword; (2) determining a search result corresponding to the keyword; (3) displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result; (4) displaying information corresponding to the search result; and (5) displaying additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '370 patent discloses everything in Claim 2 with the exception of a "keyword displayed image,"¹ and relies on the '808 patent to remedy that deficiency.

The '370 patent is directed to a search interface including a highlight tool used to identify search terms in an HTML document displayed on a web browser. The '370 patent discloses that upon selection of text, a pop-up menu appears that offers the user the option of searching for the text. See '370 patent, Figures 5c and 5f. Further, as shown in Figure 5h, the '370 patent discloses a system in which an optional pop-up menu is displayed to allow the user to save links to web pages obtained by a search, without requiring the user to visit the web site. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '370 patent fails to disclose displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result. None of the pop-up menus disclosed by the '370 patent are prepared based on the content of a search result, as recited in amended Claim 2. Rather, the menus shown in Figures 5c, 5f, and 5h are "standard," predetermined pop-up menus that are displayed independently of the content of a search result. For example, the pop-up menu shown in Figure 5c has the choices "search for the phrase," "search for all words," and "search for any word." Applicants submit that these choices in the pop-up menu of '370 Figure 5c were not prepared based on a content of a search result, as required by Claim 2, but are merely standard, predetermined menu items that are displayed regardless of the content of the search result.

In this regard, Applicants note that the Examiner provides additional arguments on pages 4-6 of his Response to Arguments section of the outstanding Office Action to further clarify how the claimed pop-up menu limitation is disclosed by the '370 patent. In particular, the Examiner gives a detailed description of the '370 process shown in Figures 5a-5h. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner does not specifically address how

¹ Office Action dated February 13, 2006, page 8.

the '370 patent discloses that the claimed pop-up menu is prepared based on a content of the search result, as recited in Claim 2. Rather, the Office Action apparently concludes that, because the '370 patent discloses both a search result and later a pop-up menu, that the '370 pop-up menu must be prepared based on a content of the search result. The '370 pop-up menu is prepared *as a result of* a user highlighting text on the search result, but is not prepared *based on a content of* the search result. The content of the '370 pop-up menu is not dependent on the content of the '370 search result.

As shown in Figure 5f, the '370 patent discloses pop-up menus having choices such as "start a new search," "expand the search," etc. Applicants submit that such menus are not prepared based on a content of the search result. The content of the search result appears to be irrelevant to the '370 pop-up menus. Nevertheless, the Office Action implies that, because the '370 patent discloses that the user highlights text of the search result, the user is marking "content" of the search result. As a result, the Office Action reasons, the pop-up-menu limitation of Claim 2 is met because the '370 patent discloses that a pop-up menu is displayed after the user's selection. However, Applicants submit that highlighting text in a search result does not read on preparing a pop-up menu based on the content of a search result. Regardless of what the '370 user highlights, none of the '370 pop-up menus are prepared based on the content of a search result; they are always the same! The '370 pop-up menus list predetermined choices that are independent of the content of the search result.

The '808 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for displaying portions of text for multiple documents over multiple databases related to a search query. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '808 patent fails to disclose displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on the content of a search result, as recited in amended Claim 2.

Accordingly, no matter how the teachings of the '370 and '808 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the step of displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result, as recited in Claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of Claim 2 (and dependent Claims 3-9 and 11-16) should be withdrawn.

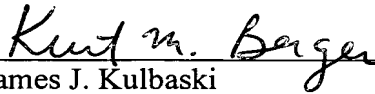
Independent Claims 17, 30, and 31 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in amended Claim 2. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejections of Claims 17, 30, and 31 (and all associated dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of Claims 2-9, 11-22, and 24-34 patentably distinguishes over the combined teachings of the '370 and '808 patents. Therefore, the outstanding rejections must be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
JJK/KMB:smi

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Canceled)
2. (Rejected) A method of managing information, comprising:
identifying a word of an image as a keyword;
determining a search result corresponding to the keyword;
displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result;
displaying information corresponding to the search result; and
displaying additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information.
3. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the image is displayed on a display unit.
4. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the information corresponding to the search result is displayed on a display unit.
5. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of displaying additional information is performed without altering a file corresponding to the image.
6. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
selecting, after the step of displaying information and before the step of displaying additional information, the portion of the displayed information.

7. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises:
determining the search result using a search engine accessible by a browser.
8. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of identifying a word is
performed using a pointing device.
9. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of identifying a word is
performed using a cursor position.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the identified word is a non-linked
word.
12. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein, when a file is displayed on a display
unit, a word from the file is identified as the keyword specified by a cursor on the display
unit.
13. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
displaying, on a display unit, in a space adjacent to the keyword, a menu comprising
menu items for specifying search criteria for a search engine; and
specifying the menu item by a cursor,
wherein the keyword and the menu items specified are input into the search engine.

14. (Rejected) The method according to claim 13, wherein the menu is for specifying at least one search database.

15. (Rejected) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
displaying, on a display unit, in a space adjacent to the keyword, a menu for specifying output criteria of the search result.

16. (Rejected) The method according to claim 15, wherein the menu is for specifying where to output the search result.

17. (Rejected) An information management device, comprising:
a display unit configured to display an image;
an identification unit configured to identify a word displayed in the image to be a keyword; and

a search unit configured to input the keyword and to output a search result corresponding to the keyword,

wherein the display unit is configured to obtain the search result corresponding to the keyword from the search unit, to display a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result, to display information corresponding to the search result, and to display additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information.

18. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, further comprising:
a selection unit configured to receive an input from a user who selects a portion of the displayed information; and
at least one database for storing therein at least one file.

19. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, wherein said search unit is a search engine accessible by a browser.

20. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, wherein the identification unit is configured to identify the word using a pointing device.

21. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, wherein the identification unit is configured to identify the word using a cursor position.

22. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, wherein the display unit is configured to display additional information without altering a file corresponding to the image on the display unit.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, wherein the identification unit is configured to identify a non-linked word.

25. (Rejected) The device of claim 18, wherein, when a file comprising a hypertext file or a non-hypertext file is displayed on the display unit, the identification unit is configured to identify a word from the file as the keyword specified by the cursor on the display unit.

26. (Rejected) The device of claim 18, further comprising:

a search criteria specification unit configured to display, on the display unit, in a space adjacent to the keyword, a menu for specifying search criteria for the search unit, the menu comprising menu items to be specified by a cursor; and

a transfer unit configured to transfer the keyword and the menu items specified to the search unit.

27. (Rejected) The device of claim 26, wherein the menu is for specifying at least one search database.

28. (Rejected) The device of claim 17, further comprising:

an output criteria specification unit configured to display, on the display unit, in a space adjacent to the keyword, a menu for specifying output criteria of the search result.

29. (Rejected) The device of claim 28, wherein the menu is for specifying where to output the result of the search.

30. (Rejected) An information management device, comprising:

means for displaying an image;

means for identifying a word displayed in the image to be a keyword;

means for determining a search result corresponding to the keyword;

means for displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result;

means for displaying information corresponding to the search result; and

means for displaying additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information.

31. (Rejected) A computer program product storing program instructions for execution on a computer device, which when executed by the computer device, cause the computer device to perform the steps of:

identifying a word displayed in an image to be a keyword;
determining a search result corresponding to the keyword;
displaying, on a display unit, a pop-up menu prepared based on a content of the search result;
displaying information corresponding to the search result; and
displaying additional information corresponding to a selection of a portion of the displayed information.

32. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of displaying the pop-up menu comprises:

displaying text corresponding to the search result as text in the pop-up menu.

33. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of displaying the pop-up menu comprises:

determining text to be displayed in the pop-up menu, wherein the text corresponds to documents searched in obtaining the search result.

34. (Rejected) The method of claim 2, wherein text displayed in the pop-up menu varies according to the content of the search result.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None

RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

None